

Remarks

This is in response to the Final Office Action dated June 30, 2005. The Office Action rejected claims 1-12 and 14-32 and objected to claim 13, indicating that claim 13 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

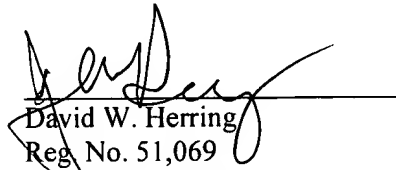
Applicants appreciate the recognition of allowable subject matter. In response to this Office Action, Applicants have canceled claims 1 and 20-32. Such cancellation of claims is without prejudice and Applicants reserve the right to present these claims in a continuation application. Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent format to incorporate all of the limitations of claim 1. Applicants have amended claims 2-6 and 11-15 to depend directly on amended claim 13. As a result, claims 2-12 and 14-19 now depend either directly or indirectly on claim 13. The Office Action rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C §112, indicating that the phrase "the only optical carrier signals" in that claim did not have adequate antecedent basis. Since the limitations of claim 1 have been incorporated fully into claim 13, this rejection will be treated as applying to claim 13. In particular, in response to this rejection, the above phrase of claim 13 has been amended to state "an only optical carrier signal." Accordingly, proper antecedent basis for this phrase is now provided.

Claim 13 has been rewritten in independent format and the rejection under 35 U.S.C §112 has been overcome. Thus, as was recognized by the present Office Action in paragraph 10, claim 13 is allowable. All remaining claims (2-12 and 14-19) now depend either directly or indirectly upon claim 13 and, therefore, those claims are also allowable as being dependent upon an allowable base claim.

The foregoing amendments have been made solely to comply with objections raised in a Final Office Action. These amendments place the application in condition for allowance. As such, entry of these amendments is hereby requested pursuant to 37 CFR 1.116(b)(1). See MPEP § 714.12.

Applicants respectfully request that all objections and rejections be withdrawn and that claims 2-19 be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,


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